

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the Abstract on page 22 as follows:

ABSTRACT

A method of pharmaceutical therapy ~~comprising the co-administration of any form of~~ includes co-administering: (A) interferon or any derivative thereof with a low dose of (B) ribavirin (less than \leq 400 mg /day or less than \leq 6 mg/kg/day), or related compound, where the ribavirin or related compound (B) provides a clinically effective blood level in the portal circulation but a less than clinically effective blood level in the peripheral circulation, to thereby provide providing a systemic effect of interferon throughout the body but a selective effect of ribavirin in the liver. The method also provides for the co-administration of ~~(A) any form of interferon or any derivative thereof with a high dose of (B) ribavirin (preferably from 400-800 mg/day), or related compound, where the ribavirin or related compound (B) is administered as a slow-release formulation such that it also~~ to provides a sustained virologic response ~~in a patient~~ and reduced side effects. The method also provides for the co-administration of ~~an~~ co-administering (C) antioxidant or other membrane protective agent with both ~~the~~ interferon and ribavirin such that the hepatoprotective activity of ~~the antioxidant or other membrane protective agent (C)~~ complements the virucidal effect of ~~the~~ interferon and ribavirin. ~~The antioxidant or other membrane protective agent (C)~~ may be administered as a systemic or a low-dose, slow-release, liver-selective formulation.